GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:144
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2001
OVERSEAS TOURS
AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA;RAMJI LAL SUMAN

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign visits undertaken by him as well as other Ministers of his Ministry during 2000 till July 31, 2001 alongwith the reasons for undertaking the visits;

(b) the details of the talks held and agreements signed during these visits; and

(c) the areas where the country stands to benefit by these visits and agreements?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a), (b) & (c) Sir, details of visits undertaken by External Affairs Minister are given at Annexure- I, by Minister of Statefor External Affairs, Shri Ajit Panja, at Annexure-II and by Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Krishnam Raju, at Annexure-III.

Lok Sabha Starred Question NO.144 for 01.08.2001 regarding `Overseas Tours`

Annexure - I

OVERSEAS TOURS BY MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, SHRI JASWANT SINGH

S.No.	Countries visited During 2000 till July 31, 2001	Reasons for Undertaking the Visits	Details of talks held and agreements signed during these visits	The area where country stands to benefit by these visits and agreements
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Italy (11-12 Jan, 2000)	Bilateral visit to strengthen bilateral Co-operation and exchnaged views on a wide range of regional and international issues of mutual interest. India and Italy decided to strengthen their cooperation to fight the menace of Terrorism.	EAM held consultations with his counter-part on measures to cooperation between the two countries.	The visit helped in promotion of better under-standing, friendship and increased
2.	United Kingdom 12-14 January, 2000 ongoing 24-27 May 2000 13-17 Nov 2000 and multilateral	EAM`s visits to the UK have been a part of the intensive and wide ranging cooperation dialogue on bilateral in the field of education and	Several matters were discussed during these visits including global and regional issues, UN peacekeeping operations and Security Council reform, in counter- terrorism and consular matters, cooperation of consolidating the	In pursuance of these discussions, both Governments have taken a number of steps to further enhance India-UK relations. These include : the setting up of a non-governmental Group, the India-UK Round Table to broaden the bilateral dialogue and to suggest new ways relationship.

	issues of mutual interest between the two countries.	defence cooperation.	An India-UK Joint Working Group has been established to provide an institutional mechanism for cooperation in combating international terrorism and drug trafficking. A Defence Consultative Group has been meeting to further bilateral defence cooperation and an official level dialogue has commenced to enhance mutual undertstanding on issues pertaining to disarmament and non-proliferation.
3. Oman	Attended IOR-	Talks held on cooperation in	Multilateral relations.
(20-23 Jan, 2000)	ARC Meeting.	IOR.	
4. Nigeria (27-29 March, 2000)	To lead Indian Delegation to the Nigerian Joint Commission Session of the Indo-Nigerian Joint Commission held in Abuja, Nigeria.	The agreed minutes of meetings of the Third Session of the Indo-Nigerian Joint Commission provided a definitive momentum to the economic content of Indo-Nigerian bilateral relations. EAM met his counterpart and called on Nigerian President Obasanjo, thereby reinforcing the momentum in Indo-Nigerian relations.	An agreement between Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation and Indian Oil Corporation was agreed to for supply of Nigerian crude oil to India at Official Selling Price.
5. Portugal 30 March - 1 Apr 2000	Prepartion for the first ever Indo-EU Summit in end June 2000. Member of Official delegation led by the PM for Indo-EU Summit as well as Indo-Portugal Bilateral Summit	EAM had extensive consulation with his Portuguese counterpart on bilateral, regional and international issues. He signed an agreement on Economic forthcoming 27-29 June, 2000 and Industrial Cooperation between India and Portugal on 31st March,2000. Agreement signed : On financing of Civil Aviation Sector.	The visit enabled Portugal, as President of the EU, to understand India`s perspective on bilateral, regional and international issues and facilitated preparations for the first ever India-EU Summit in end June,2000. EAM participated in both the bilateral and EU Troika meetings with PM. Helped in further strengthening the relations between India and the EU as well as with Portugal. The visit helped in removing bottlenecks and promoted India-EU trade and economic cooperation.
6. Colombia (8-9 April, 2000)	To attend the NAM Ministerial Meeting	The XIII NAM Ministerial meeting held at Cartagena, assumed particular signi-ficance since it preceded the Millennium Summit and Millennium Assembly of the UN General Assembly, and had a role	India`s concerns with regard to the developments that have taken place in neighbouring Afghanistan in the Taliban regime, particularly with respect to the safety of Indian nationals living in Afghanistan, found expression through

		in determining NAM position on various matters of importance to the Movement. The final document issued at the Cartagena Ministerial Meeting reiterated, for the most part, positions that were earlier highlighted during the Durban Summit. For the first time, a NAM communique strongly condemned the Taliban, forcing Pakistan to express its reservations. The Indian delegation was also successful in maintaining the NAM position which categorically rejects the concept of `humanitarian inter-vention`.	the NAM communique. The subject of humanitarian intervention, which would entail unwarranted interference in the country`s internal affairs was also rejected. India`s proposal for adoption of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism also received support through the communique. India`s initiative to take into account concerns of predominant agrarian economies in multilateral negotiations on agriculture were also incorporated in the communique.	
7.	Tehran, Iran (19-23 May, 2000)	Official bilateral visit	An MOU was signed incorporating all items discussed and agreed to in the field of meetings of six committees on Petroleumenergy, agriculture, science & technology, and Natural Gas; Trade; Transport &transport, communications, trade, commerce, Communications; Industry; Agricultureculture and education. & Rural Development; and Culture, Consular, Information and Science & Technology. An agreement was also signed on the establishment of a Joint Committee on the supply of Iranian gas to India. The mandate of the Committee is to study and examine all aspects relating to the gas pipeline from Iran to India.	i) Renewed focus on the development of multi-faceted relations with Iran. ii) Intensification of bilateral ties in the
8.	Singapore (1-3 June, 2000)	Bilateral visit	There were detailed discussions with Singapore PM, FM and senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew on bilateral as well as regional and international issues. The Two sides agreed to work closely to enhance cooperation in the bilateral areas like terrorism, sea-piracy etc. India`s interaction with ASEAN was also discussed.	The visit has helped in promoting India-Singapore Relations. While no Agreement was signed During the visit, EAM had detailed discussions with Singapore leaders on various issues.
9.	Sri Lanka (11-12 June, 2000)	The visit was part of ongoing high level inter-action between India & Sri Lanka	EAM visited Sri Lanka from 11-12 June, 2000 and held discussions with the Sri Lankan President, Foreign Minister, Leader of the Opposition and several other political leaders. During the visit India offered to extend Sri Lanka a	The visit contributed to development of the bilateral relations between the two countries.

		credit line of US $100 million. The possibilities of Sri Lanka`s purchasing wheat, rice and sugar on a counter trade basis from India, were also discussed.		
10. Russia (22-24 June,2000)	Bilateral visit	EAM had detailed discussions with the Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation, Mr. Igor Ivanov, on bilateral matters and on regional and international issues of mutual interest. EAM called on the President of the Russian Federation, Mr. Vladimir Putin. He met Secretary of the Security Council, Mr. Sergei Ivanov and the Deputy Prime Minister and the then co-Chairman of the Indo-Russian Inter Governmental Commission, Dr. Viktor Khristenko. EAM also visited St. Petersburg where he met the Governor of St. Petersburg, Mr. Vladimir Yakovlev and addressed the School of International Relations, University of St. Petersburg on `The Dimensions of India`s Foreign Policy in the New Millennium`.	The visit helped in strengthening Indo-Russian bilateral relations and to prepare for the visit of Russian President Putin to India in October 2000. During a Joint Press Conference with EAM, the Russian Foreign Minister once again publicly expressed Russia`s support to India`s candidature for permanent membership of the UN Security Council.	
11. Poland (25-27 June,2000)	To participate in the Conference `Towards a Community of Democracies` at Warsaw.	During the visit, EAM interacted with President of Poland Alexander Kwasniewski, Prime Minister Jerzy Buzek, the Speakers of the two Houses of the Parliament and Foreign Minister Bronislaw Geremek. EAM also met with US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and the UN Secretary General Kofi Annan.	At Warsaw, India was one of the Co-Convenors of the Conference `Towards a Community of Democracies`. The other convenors were Poland, Chile, the Czech Republic, South Korea, Mali and the USA.	
	To attend the Ministerial Meeting on the Community of Democracies	India was sucessful in conveying its primary concerns, such as avoidance of extraneous bilateral issues between members, state sponsored, cross-border and other forms of terrorism and threat posed to democratic regimes by the overthrow of constitutionally elected governments, through the communique. India played a leading role in the deliberations of the meeting and in finalisation of the Declaration as well as of the final Communique, being one of the eight members of the Convening Committee. EAM chaired the Ministerial Panel-II on Sharing Best Practices.		
12. Palestine (30 June, 2000)	Bilateral visit	In addition to the call on the President, EAM held discussions with Minister of Planning and International Cooperation and the Secretary General of the Presidency.	To convey solidarity with the Palestinian people and to inaugurate two Indian-funded libraries in the Palestinian territories.	
13. Israel (30 June - 3 July, 2000)	Bilateral visit	In addition to calls on the President and Prime Minister, EAM had discussions with Foreign Minister, Minister for Regional Development and the Opposition Leader. The sides agreed to set up a Ministerial level Joint Commission with a view to develop a long-term framework of cooperation and monitor ongoing interactions. No agreement was signed during	Focus on strengthening existing multifaceted cooperation - in the fields of Agriculture, Science and Technology, Defence and Trade.	

the visit.					
14. Bangkok (26-29 July, 2000)	ASEAN Ministerial Conference(PM C) 10+10 and ASEAN PMC 10+1 Meetings and 7th ARF Meeting.	Post- Post-Ministerial (PMC) 10+1 Meeting. The Global Economic situation was discussed in PMC 10+10 Meeting.	No agreements were signed during the visit. ASEAN was discussed in the	India`s involvement with ASEAN cooperative programme with East Asia political and strategic interest	India`s strengthens our relations with South-East Asia - a region of commercial, to us.
EAM attended the 7th ARF Ministerial Meeting, and the ASEAN Post-Ministerial 10+10 and 10+1 Conferences. The inaugural meeting of the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation was also held during this visit. EAM also held bilateral consultations with several other Foreign Ministers of the ARF Member States. The Mekong-Ganga cooperation is a six-country initiative designed to strengthen cooperation in Tourism, Culture, Human Resource Development and Communication fields.			India`s association with the ARF is consistent with our `Look-East-Policy` and the stronger relations we are attempting with South-East Asian countries. ASEAN is a part of our extended neighbourhood and India both gains from and contributes to the peace, security and stability in the region. The ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conferences are useful as they focus on trade, investment and economic cooperation issues.		
15. Switzerland (4 Sept, 2000)	Bilateral visit	Exchange of views on wide range of issues viz. bilateral - political trade developments in the Indian region, the EU disarmament and non-proliferation, development funding activities, etc.		This was the first Ministerial exchange since 1981 and marked the upgrading in relations including bilateral trade especially Swiss investments in India, in the infrastructure sector, financial services, insurance sector and field of information technology are expected to increase.	
16. USA (7-19 Sept, 2000)	To accompany Prime Minister on official visit to Washington, D.C.	Talks held with President Clinton and his administration. Joint Session of Congress, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, House International Relations Committee, India Caucus, Business Chambers and think tanks.		Visit helped consolidate and deepen new phase of friendship between India and U.S. By interacting with the two Presidential candidates, reaffirmed bi-partisan support existing in U.S. for close ties with India. Helped raise India`s international political and diplomatic profile.	
Singed Joint Statement; MOU on Cooperation in Energy Sector; and commercial project agreements at level of Trade Chambers.			Private investment of about US$ 6 bn. announced, including about $4 bn. for three power projects and a new US EXIM Bank line of credit of approx. $1 bn.		
To accompany Prime Minister to the UN Millennium Summit to attend the UNGA on September 8, 2000. The majority of developing countries expressed some degree of anxiety about the effects of globalisation on their economies and societies. A declaration was adopted by acclamation at the conclusion of the Summit. On 19th September, 2000, EAM delivered the statement on behalf of India in the general debate of the 55th Session of the UNGA. On behalf of India, Prime Minister signed the			The Millennium Summit of the United Nations, with over 150 Heads of State and Government participating, was the single largest gathering of Heads of State and Government. Prime Minister addressed the Summit		India`s concerns with respect to issues such as the realisation of a nuclear free world and challenges posed by terrorism, drugs and illicit arms trafficking, as well as the necessity for Security Council reform, were reflected through the Millennium Declaration. India`s willingness to take on the responsibilities of permanent membership of the Security Council were also reiterated once again through EAM`s Statement delivered on behalf of India in the general debate of the Millennium Assembly.

			International Convention for Suppression of Terrorist Financing.	
17. Algeria (23-25 Oct, 2000)	Bilateral visit	EAM was received by the President and the Prime Minister. He had detailed exchange of views on global and bilateral issues with the Algerian counterpart. The efforts were aimed at diversification of the existing excellent relations between the two countries. MOU on Foreign Office Consultations was signed.		The areas of mutual cooperation were identified and it was decided to put in place an institutional frame-work to enhance bilateral cooperation.
18. Vietnam (Nov. 6-8,2000)	To co-chair the 10th India-Vietnam JCM.	Besides attending the Joint Commission Meeting and a separate Meeting with his counterpart, EAM called on the President and the Prime Minister of Vietnam. In all these meeting/calls bilateral, regional and international issues were discussed.		These discussions helped to further strengthen the already existing excellent relationship with Vietnam.
19. Lao PDR (Nov. 8-10, 2000)	To co-chair 3rd India-Lao JCM and to attend the Mekong-Ganga Coopeation Meeting.	After conclusion of the Joint Commission session, EAM attended the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation Meeting, during which `Vientiane Declaration` was adopted. On the sidelines of these two meetings, EAM called on the President and the Prime Minister of Laos besides his counterpart, the Dy. PM and FM. Matters of bilateral and mutual interest were discussed during these calls. Three bilateral agreements were signed:- (i) The Agreement on Promotion and Protection of Investment seeking to encourage and create favorable conditions for investors of the two countries. (ii) The Agreement on trade and Economic cooperation promoting/facilitating trade, commercial and economic cooperation between the two countries on a long term and stable basis. (iii) The Work Plan in agriculture and allied sectors to boost bilateral cooperation between the two countries in the field of Agriculture		Discussions during these meetings helped further strengthen the already existing excellent relationship with Lao PDR. Exchange of visits of experts, study visits, training programme, improvement of cattle, irrigation development projects etc. will be covered under the work plan.
20. Germany (17-18 Jan, 2001)	For inauguration of new Chancery	He met with FM Joschka Fischer and other important officials of the German		Generated goodwill and understanding on Matters of mutual interest.

	Building And Bilateral Meeting	Government where he held discussions on important strategic issues of mutual interest.			
21. Saudi Arabia (20-21 Jan, 2001)	Further strengthen bilateral relations	Foreign Office and Co-operation in combating crime.	Consultations	Diplomatic and political.	
22. Syria (30 Jan - 1 Feb, 2001)	Bilateral visit	EAM exchanged views on issues of bilateral concern with the Syrian President, Prime Minister and Foreign Minister. The talks were aimed at enhancing cooperation especially in the economic and scientific fields.	EAM exchanged views on bilateral regional and global issues. It was decided to enhance the economic content of the bilateral relationship.		
23. Egypt (3-4 Feb, 2001)	Indo-Egypt Joint Commission Meeting	The 4th Session of the Indo-Egypt Joint Commission was held in Cairo. The Egyptian side was headed by Foreign Minister Amre Moussa. The talks included discussions on ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation as well as an exchange of views on crucial regional and global issues of mutual interest. The two sides signed the following : 1. Protocol for cooperation between the Foreign Service Institute of India and the Institute for diplomatic studies of the Arab Republic of Egypt. 2. The minutes of the Joint Commission Meeting including the deliberations of the four sub committees which looked into following fields : a) Trade and Economic Cooperation, b) Scientific and Technological Cooperation, c) Cultural cooperation, d) Information Technology and Electronics.	The discussions examined methods and ways for strengthening bilateral cooperation, as well as a wide ranging views on important regional and global issues of mutual interest.		
24. Myanmar (13-15 Feb, 2001)	The visit was part of the ongoing high level interaction between India and Myanmar.	The visit gave an impetus to bilateral cooperation. Minister of External Affairs (EAM) had discussions with the Myanmar leadership including on various issues of bilateral interest. The two sides reviewed the progress of the proposed cross-border projects. EAM inaugurated the Tamu-Kalemyo-Kalewa road during the visit, which was upgraded with the Indian assistance. EAM also inaugurated the India-Myanmar Friendship Centre for Remote Sensing and Data Processing in Yangon. The Centre was set up with the assistance of Government of India.	The visit contributed to development of the bilateral relations between the two countries.		
25. Denmark (2-3 April,	Working visit on the PM and FM	EAM had meetings with Danish	During EAM`s visit	the Danish Foreign Minister conveyed Denmark`s	

2001)	invitation		support for the comprehensive	
of Danish		convention on international		
Foreign		Terrorism as proposed by India in		
Minister		the UN General Assembly. Denmark		
also agreed to promote bilateral				
trade investments by Danish				
Companies in India.				
26. Sweden	13th India-	India-EU Troika Ministerial	The meeting is part of the annual	
(3-4 April,	EU Troika	Meeting	consultations with the EU Troika at	
2001)	Ministerial		ministerial level and high-lights	
Meeting		the growing importance of these		
relations.				
27. USA	Official	Discussions held with	Visit within six months of new U.S.	
(5-7 April,	visit to	President Bush, Secretary of	Administration coming to office is	
2001)	Washington	State, Secretary of Defence	indicative of seriousness of purpose	
D.C. at the	and National Security Adviser		by both sides, to maintain close	
invitation	- on commitment of both sides		ties, as provided for under Dialogue	
of Secretary	to speed up pace of Indo-U.S.		Architecture. Two sides have agreed	
of State	relations		in principle to resume defence	
cooperation.				
28. Tehran, Iran	As member of	During PM`s visit	the Tehran PM`s visit :	
(9-13 April,	Prime	Declaration and six		
2001)	Minister`s	Agreements/MOUs were signed.	i) marked a new chapter in	
Official	These were agreements on :		bilateral relations of the two	
delgation.			countries.	
i) Trade and Economic		ii) The visit would establish long		
Cooperation and		term framework for consolidation and		
ii) Customs Cooperation.		diversification of all round and		
multifaceted cooperation between				
MOUs were signed on :		India and Iran.		
iii) The visit would provide				
i) Information Technology,		direction to tap the vast potential		
ii) Cooperation in the field		of bilateral cooperation in		
of Energy,		political, strategic, economic,		
iii) Cooperation in the field		technological and cultural fields,		
of Power (Conventional and		including trade, industry, energy,		
non-conventional sources),		technology, transportation and		
iv) Technical cooperation.		agriculture.		
29. Australia	To	During the visit, EAM met	EAM`s interaction with the	
(19-24	participate	Australian PM Howard, Trade	Australian Leaders has helped in	
Jun,2001)	in the first	Minister and	Defence further promoting bilateral ties	
India-	Minister. With FM Downer he		between the two Countries. New areas	
Australia	had the first India-Australia		of cooperation were identified.	
Ministerial	Ministerial Framework		With the advent of India-Australia	
Framework	Meeting. During the meeting		Ministerial Framework Meeting a new	
Meeting and	with PM Howard, the		chapter in the relations of our two	
to further	Australian PM said that he		Countries has begun.	
strengthen	`prized` relations with India			
bilateral	and was very keen that these			
ties between	should prosper. Defence			
the two	Minister of Australia			
Countries.	emphasized the need to			
increase the structural				
content of the Defence				
relationship between India				
and Australia. He mentioned				
particularly the desire to				
enhance naval cooperation.				
EAM also met opposition				
leader, Kim Beazley, Leader				
of Labour Party.				
During the India-Australia				
Ministerial Framework meeting				
with FM Downer, it was				
decided to establish a				
Security Dialogue. Both				
sides agreed that India and				
Australia are factors for				
regional stability.				
Australia saw economic				
relations with India offering				
great opportunities for trade				
and Investment in view of the				
pace of economic reforms in				

		India. Cooperation in Energy Sector was also recognised. Other matter of bilateral, regional and international significance were discussed at the meeting.			
30.	New Zealand (June 24-26,2001)	To further strengthen bilateral ties between the two Countries. During the visit New Zealand PM outlined assistance being rendered by New Zealand for conduct of election in Fiji in August. Foreign Minister Goff was also confident that election will be fair and impartial in Fiji. Discussions were also held on bilateral, regional and international issues.	During EAM called on PM Clark and held detailed discussions with Foreign Minister Phil Goff and Defence Minister Mark Burton. During the meeting, the New Zealand Leaders were quite useful especially in the context of Fiji and other regional and international issues of mutual concern.	EAM`s visit to New Zealand has helped in developing better understanding between the two Countries. EAM`s meetings with New Zealand Leaders were quite useful	

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Annexure - II

OVERSEAS TOURS BY MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA

S.No.	Countries visited during 2000 till July 31, 2001	Reasons for undertaking the visits	Details of talks held and agreements signed during these visits	The areas where the country stands to benefit by these visits and agreements
1.	Bangladesh (20-22 Jan 2000)	The visit was part of the ongoing high level interaction between India and Bangladesh	The MOS (EA) called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and held discussions with the Finance and Agriculture and State Minister for Foreign Affairs. The discussions covered the entire range of bilateral relations. It was agreed that a bus service between Agartala and Dhaka would be started, for which the modalities would be worked out by the two countries. An MoU on cooperation in the field of agriculture was signed during this visit.	The visit contributed to development of the bilateral relations between the two countries.
2.	Mauritius (10-13	As a member of the Prime	Three agreements in the fields of Trade, Banking and Science	Renewal of exchange of visits at high political level further

March, 2000)	Ministerial delegation	and Technology Cooperation between the countries in the field of Oceanography were signed during the visit.	and an MOU on two	consolidated the relations between Mauritius.	historical India and
3. Tunisia (4-5 April, 2000)	Indo-Tunisian Joint Commission Meeting	The 8th Indo-Tunisian Joint Commission Meeting was held in Tunis. MOS (EA) had discussions with the Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and several senior Ministers of the Tunisian Government with a view to consolidate the excellent relations existing between the two countries. Following agreements were signed : 1. Extradition Treaty 2. MOU on Cooperation in Agriculture 3. Programme of Cooperation in Science and Technology 4. MOU between CII and UTICA 5. Cultural Exchange Programme	Bilateral in the two countries has been boosted.		cooperation between
4. Sudan (8-9 April 2000)	Indo-Sudan Joint Commission Meeting	The Second Session of Indo-Sudan Ministerial Joint Commission Meeting was held at Khartoum. MOS (EA) exchanged views with President of Sudan and Ministers holding charge of Industry, Investment, Foreign Trade, External Relations, Culture and Information. Following Agreements were signed : 1. Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Trade 2. MOU on Annual Foreign Office Consultations 3. Agreement for Cooperation in the field of Small Scale Enterprise Sector 4. Agreement between Foreign Service Institute, Ministry of External Affairs and National Centre for Diplomatic Studies, Ministry of External Relations, Sudan 5. Cultural Exchange Programme for 2000 to 2002 6. Agreement between Press Trust of India and Sudan News Agency	Bilateral Cooperation between the two countries has been boosted. Increased level of trade relations with Sudan is expected.		

7 Protocol on Cooperation between Prasar Bharti and Sudanese Radio and Television					
8. Agreement for establishment of Joint Business Council between FICCI and ASSOCHAM and Sudanese Businessmen General Federation					
5. Kuwait (8-11 July, 2000)	Further strengthen bilateral relations	Held high level bilateral discussions. MOU on Foreign Office Consultations was signed.		Diplomatic and political	
6. Germany (14-17 Aug 2000)	Chief Guest on India`s National Day at the Indian Stall at the Hannover Expo 2000		Shri Panja`s presence at the Indian Stall in Hannover Expo-2000 indicate the importance India attaches to promoting the business with Germany. He held discussions with important German officials and business men on enhancing bilateral trade and investment. He highlighted the importance of green card mechanism to facilitate movement of Indian IT professionals into Germany.		
7 Argentina and Trinidad and Tobago (28-30 Aug., 2000)	Political consultations	Detailed discussions were held with the political leaders and an agreement between the Foreign Service Institutes of the two countries was signed.		Diplomats and others from the two countries will be benefited by the training imparted to them by the respective Institutes.	
8. Iraq (23-25 Sept., 2000)	Further strengthen bilateral relations.	Bilateral discussions. MOU on Foreign Office Consultations.		Signed Diplomatic and political.	
9. Hungary (5-6 Feb., 2001)	Bilateral visit	During the visit, MOS (EA) met the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Hungary Dr. Janos Martonyi, Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of the Republic of Hungary Mr. Ferenc Wekler and the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Parliament of the Republic of Hungary Dr. Istvan Szent-Ivanyi. MOS (EA) held detailed discussions on bilateral, regional and international issues with the Political State Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Hungary, Mr. Zsolt Nemeth.		The visit helped in strengthening Indo-Hungarian bilateral relations.	

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Annexure - III

OVERSEAS TOURS BY MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU

S.No.	Countries visited during 2000 till July 31, 2001	Reasons for undertaking the visits	Details of talks held and agreements signed during these visits	The areas where the country stands to benefit by these visits and agreements
1.	Singapore (1-3 Nov., 2000)	To further strengthen bilateral relations between India and Singapore and to assess the situation of NRIs/PIOs	MOS had meetings with Singapore Minister of Foreign Affairs and MOS for Foreign Affairs. He also had meeting with Singapore-India Chamber of Commerce and Industry and assess the meeting of the Indian Community.	MOS had fruitful discussions with Singapore Leaders specially on Trade Promotion Matters. He also acquainted himself with the problem of the People of Indian Origin in Singapore.
2.	Malaysia (6-8 Nov., 2000)	To further strengthen bilateral relations between India and Malaysia and to assess the situation of NRIs/PIOs	In Malaysia MOS met Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs and for Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs and discussed issues of mutual interest. He also interacted with the Indian Community.	MOS had fruitful discussions with Malaysian Leaders on Trade Promotion Matters. He also acquainted himself with the problem of the People of Indian Origin.
3.	Mexico (29 Nov - 6 Dec., 2000)	Inauguration of Mexican Presidency	Nil	Not applicable
4.	UAE (3-5 April, 2001)	The focus of the visit was on Sharjah and Fujairah of UAE which have not been given due attention in the past.	Nil	Political, diplomatic and economic.
5.	Oman (6-9 April, 2001)	To attend IOR-ARC Meeting	Talks held on cooperation in Indian Ocean Region.	Multilateral relations.
6.	St. Lucia, Guyana and Panama (7-17 June, 2001	Political consultations with respective countries.	Detailed discussions were held with political leaders of the interact with the political leaders and Persons of Indian Origin.	The visit to Panama was the first high level visit and a decision has been taken to open a branch of Kendriya Vidyalaya. The visit to Guyana was to